

(f) *Material for State Office.* When the loan has been closed, the District Director will submit to the State Director:

- (1) The complete docket; and
- (2) A statement covering information other than the completion of legal documents showing what was done in carrying out loan closing instructions.

(g) *State Office review of loan closing.* The State Director will review the District Director's statement concerning loan closing, the security instruments, and other documents used in closing to determine whether the transaction was closed properly. All material submitted by the District Director, including the executed contract documents (if required by OGC) with the certification of the borrower's attorney, along with a statement by the State Director that all administrative requirements have been met, will be referred to OGC for post-closing review. OGC will review the submitted material to determine whether all legal requirements have been met. OGC's review of FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354's standard forms will be only for proper execution thereof, unless the State Director brings specific questions or deviations to the attention of OGC. It is not expected that facility development including construction will be held up pending receipt of the opinion from OGC. When the opinion from OGC is received, the State Director will advise the District Director of any deficiencies that must be corrected and return all material that was submitted for review.

(h) *Safeguarding bond shipments.* FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 personnel will follow the procedures for safeguarding mailings and deliveries of bonds and coupons outlined in FmHA Instruction 2018-E (available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office), whenever they mail or deliver these items.

(i) *Water stock certificates.* Water stock certificates will be filed in the loan docket in the District Office.

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§ 1942.9 Planning, bidding, contracting, and constructing. [See §§ 1942.17(p) and 1942.18]

(a) *Review of construction plans and specifications.* All plans and specifications will be submitted as soon as available to the State Office for review and comments.

(b) *Contract approval.* The State Director or designee is responsible for approving all construction contracts using legal advice and guidance of OGC as necessary. The use of a contracting method under § 1942.18(l) of this subpart exceeding \$100,000 must be concurred in by the National Office. Procurement under § 1942.18(l) of this subpart will not be considered when an FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 grant is involved. When an applicant requests such concurrence, the State Director will submit the following to the National Office:

- (1) State Director's and FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 engineer/architect's comments and recommendations, and when non-competitive negotiation is proposed, submit an evaluation of previous work of the proposed construction firm.

- (2) Regional attorney's opinion and comments regarding the legal adequacy of the proposed procurement method and proposed contract documents.

- (3) Copy of owner's written request and description of the procurement method proposed.

- (4) Copy of the proposed contract.

(c) *Bid irregularities.* Any irregularities in the bids received or other matters pertaining to the contract award having legal implications will be cleared with OGC before the State Director consents to the contract award.

(d) *Noncompliance.* State Directors, upon receipt of information indicating borrowers or their officers, employees, or agents are not performing in compliance with § 1942.18(j)(1) of this subpart, may request the Regional Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to investigate the matter and provide a report. The State Director is responsible for resolving the issue.

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